Commission (UGC), the Commission has not received any specific complaint in this regard. However, some Universities, randomly check genuineness of certificate from the issuing authority to prevent admission on fake certificate.

Criteria for higher education

581. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that merit will no longer be the criteria for higher, specialised and technical education in India;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the possibilities of frustration of meritorious aspirants and impact of brain drain from the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No Sir, *inter-se* merit within each category of equals will continue to be the criteria in higher and technical education.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Raising retirement age of teachers

582. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the retirement age of teachers in universities and other professional colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether similar action would taken in the case of other teachers of primary and senior secondary schools, also and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and

(b) There is a proposal to increase the retirment age of university teachers from 62 years to 65 years. The Government has not taken any decision in this regard.

(c) Does not arise, in view of the above.

Visit of educationists' delegation to Saudi Arabia

†583. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a delegation of educationists made a visit to Saudi Arabia alongwith him; and

(b) if so, the issues discussed with Saudi Arabia for mutual co-operation and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the visit was to expand relations with Saudi Arabia in the field of Education. The visit was very fruitful. Meetings were held with King of Saudi Arabia, the Education Minister of Saudi Arabia and other important dignitaries. Various matters concerning collaboration in the field of Education and interaction between Institutions of India and Saudi Arabia were discussed.

Reconstruction of university system

584. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand for reconstruction of the university system in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the deteriorating health of universities in the past two decades has affected scientific research base; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.